

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for generating a multi-dimensional data structure in order to access data stored at ~~associated with~~ a plurality of data sources, said plurality of data sources being disparate, having disparate source data structures, and having a different number of dimensions than said multi-dimensional data structure, said method comprising:

defining at least one dimension and a dimension value associated with the at

least one dimension for said multi-dimensional data structure;

creating a plurality of combinations of dimension values,

wherein a combination defines a data item,

wherein the plurality of combinations comprise a first set of data items and
a second set of data items, [[and]]

wherein said multi-dimensional data structure is defined by [[a]] the first
set of data items, and

wherein each of the plurality of data sources is defined by a the second
set of data items comprises data items associated with the plurality
of data sources;

mapping data items in the first set of data items in said multi-dimensional data
structure to corresponding data items in the second set of data items ~~in~~
~~each data source;~~

determining a location of a gap comprising a difference between the first set of
data items and the second set of data items;

bridging the gap by at least one of the following:

obtaining, from one of the plurality of data sources, a further data item for
mapping to one of the data items in the first set, wherein the further
data item is not originally obtainable in the second set of data items,
and is generated from one or more of the plurality of data sources;

modifying the multi-dimensional data structure to be further defined by the
second set of data items; and

converting a source data structure in at least one of the plurality of data
sources into ~~another~~ a source data structure defined by at least one
data item in the first set of data items.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said gap is bridged at
said plurality of data sources.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising defining an
attribute and an attribute value associated with the attribute for said multi-dimensional
data structure, wherein the attribute is assigned to a single dimension.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said creating the combinations includes linking two or more dimensions for said combination created.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said mapping includes mapping the combination to a data structure for one of the data sources.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising creating a mapping file for historic data conversion, wherein the mapping file is configured to store relationships between data items in historical data sources for use in generating new data items from historical data sources.
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising generating a report, wherein said report is a combination report, a hierarchy report, or a mapping report.
10. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a machine, said instructions for generating a new multi-dimensional chart of accounts that is used to access data stored at ~~associated with~~ a plurality of source charts of accounts, wherein said plurality of source charts of accounts are disparate, have disparate source data structures, and has a different number of dimensions than said new multi-dimensional chart of accounts, the program storage device executing the method comprising:

defining at least one dimension and a dimension value associated with the at
least one dimension for said new multi-dimensional chart of accounts;
creating a plurality of combinations of dimension values,
wherein a combination ~~each of the combinations~~ defines a data item,
wherein the plurality of combinations comprise a first set of data items and
a second set of data items,
wherein said new multi-dimensional chart of accounts is defined by [[a]]
the first set of data items, [[and]]
wherein ~~each of said plurality of source charts of accounts is defined by a~~
the second set of data items comprises data items associated with
the plurality of source charts of accounts;
mapping data items in the first set of data items in said new multidimensional
chart of accounts to corresponding data items in the second set of data
items ~~in each source chart of accounts;~~ [[and]]
determining a location of a gap comprising a difference between said first set of
data items and [[a]] the second set of data items;
bridging the gap by at least one of the following:
obtaining, from one of the plurality of source charts of accounts, a further
data item for mapping to one of the data items in the first set,
wherein the further data item is not originally obtainable in the
second set of data items and is generated from one or more of the
plurality of source charts of accounts;

modifying the new multi-dimensional chart of accounts to be further
defined by the second set of data items; and
converting a source data structure in at least one of the plurality of source
charts of accounts into ~~another~~ a source data structure defined by
at least one data item in the first set of data items.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The program storage device of claim 10, wherein said gap is bridged at said plurality of source charts of accounts.

13. (Previously Presented) The program storage device of claim 10, wherein the method further comprises defining an attribute and an attribute value associated with the attribute for said multi-dimensional chart of accounts, wherein the attribute is assigned to a single dimension.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The program storage device of claim 10, wherein said dimension is at least one of a dimension for a product, an industry classification and a maturity.

16. (Original) The program storage device of claim 15, wherein said dimension value associated with said product dimension is one of corporate loans, mortgages, home credits and personal loans.

17. (Currently Amended) The program storage device of claim 10, wherein said method further comprises ~~creating the combinations~~ includes linking two or more dimensions for a created combination.

18. (Currently Amended) The program storage device of claim 17, wherein said method further comprises ~~mapping~~ includes mapping a combination for a dimension value to said plurality of source charts of accounts.

19. (Currently Amended) The program storage device of claim 10, wherein the method further comprises creating a mapping file for historic data conversion, wherein the mapping file is configured to store relationships between data items in historical source charts of accounts for use in generating new data items from historical source charts of accounts.

20. (Previously Presented) The program storage device of claim 10, wherein the method further comprises generating a report, wherein said report is a combination report, a hierarchy report, or a mapping report.

21. (Currently Amended) A tool for generating a multi-dimensional data structure for integrating data stored at ~~from~~ a plurality of data sources, said plurality of data sources being disparate, having disparate source data structures, and having a different number of dimensions than said multi-dimensional data structure, said tool comprising:

a relational database;

a processor;

a data structure generator, wherein said data structure generator defines at least one dimension and a dimension value associated with the at least one dimension;

a combination module for creating and retrieving a plurality of combinations of dimension values,

wherein a combination defines a data item,

wherein the plurality of combinations comprise a first set of data items and a second set of data items, [[and]]

wherein said multi-dimensional data structure is defined by [[a]] the first set of data items₁ and

wherein said plurality of data sources is defined by a the second set of data items comprise data items associated with the plurality of data sources;

a mapping module for mapping data items in the first set of data items in the multi-dimensional data structure to corresponding data items in the second set of data items ~~in said plurality of data sources;~~

a gap detector for detecting a gap comprising a difference between the first set of data items and the second set of data items; and

a gap resolver for facilitating bridging of the gap by at least one of the following:

- obtaining, from one of the plurality of data sources, a further data item for mapping to one of the data items in the first set, wherein the further data item is not originally obtainable in the second set of data items, and is generated from one or more of the plurality of data sources;
- modifying the multi-dimensional data structure to be further defined by the second set of data items; and
- converting a source data structure in at least one of the plurality of data sources into ~~another~~ a source data structure defined by at least one data item in the first set of data items.

22. (Original) The tool of claim 21, wherein said tool is in communication with said plurality of data sources via an electronic network.

23. (Currently Amended) The tool of claim 21, wherein said gap is ~~gaps are~~ bridged at said plurality of data sources.

24. (Previously Presented) The tool of claim 21, wherein said combination module creates the combination by linking two or more dimensions.

25. (Currently Amended) The tool of claim 21, further comprising a mapping file module for creating a mapping file used for historic data conversion, wherein the mapping file module is configured to store relationships between data items in historical data sources for use in generating new data items from historical data sources.
26. (Previously Presented) The tool of claim 21, further comprising a report generator for generating a report, wherein said report is a combination report, a hierarchy report, or a mapping report.
27. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising documenting how the gap was bridged.
28. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the multi-dimensional data structure comprises a centralized database.
29. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 28, wherein the centralized database is located at a central office.
30. (Previously Presented) A program storage device according to claim 10, wherein the method further comprises documenting how the gap was bridged.
31. (Previously Presented) A program storage device according to claim 10, wherein the multidimensional chart of accounts comprises a centralized database.

32. (Previously Presented) A program storage device according to claim 31, wherein the centralized database is located at a central office.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously Presented) A tool according to claim 21, wherein the gap detector and resolver document how gaps are bridged.

35. (Previously Presented) A tool according to claim 21, wherein the multi-dimensional data structure comprises a centralized database.

36. (Previously Presented) A tool according to claim 35, wherein the centralized database is located at a central office.

37-42. (Canceled)